

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (original) A method for generating an authentication rating for an entity, comprising: receiving a message identifying an entity, which message requires authentication of said entity; receiving data from each of a plurality of sources, said data representing at least a rating for said authentication according to a criteria; analysing said received data using a set of predefined fuzzy inferencing rules so as to calculate an authentication rating for said entity
2. (original) A method according to claim 1, wherein said data from each source comprise data representing a trust rating for said entity and data representing an associated confidence rating.
3. (original) A method according to claim 2, wherein the analysis comprises: combining said plurality of data representing a trust rating using a first predefined set of fuzzy inferencing rules so as to calculate a combined trust rating; combining said plurality of confidence rating data using a second predefined set of fuzzy inferencing rules to calculate a combined confidence rating; and then analysing said combined trust rating and said combined confidence rating using a third predefined set of fuzzy inferencing rules so as to calculate said authentication rating.

4. (currently amended) A method according to ~~any preceding claim~~ 1, where one of the sources is a local store for storing previous case data relating to a user.

5. (original) A system for generating an authentication rating for an entity, comprising: receiving means for receiving a message identifying an entity, which message requires identification of said entity; the receiving means being further arranged to receive in use from each of a plurality of sources data representing a rating of said entity according to a criteria; and processing means arranged in use to analyse said received data using a set of predefined fuzzy inferencing rules so as to calculate an authentication rating for said entity.

6. (original) A system according to claim 5, said processing means being further arranged to compare said authentication rating with a predefined policy so as to determine whether to issue. an authenticate signal. '

7. (currently amended) A computer program or suite of programs executable by a computer system to cause the system to perform the method of ~~any of claims 1 to 4~~ claim 1.

8. (original) A modulated carrier signal incorporating data corresponding to the computer. program or at least one of the suite of programs of claim 7.

9. (original) A computer readable storage medium storing a computer program or at least one of a suite of computer programs as claimed in claim 7.